Patricia Hearst Lead False

FBI Invades Va. Apartment

3/19/75

By Laura A. Kiernan
Washington Post Staff Writer

Heavily armed FBI agents searching for fugitive newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst forced their way, guns drawn, into an Alexandria apartment Saturday night after refusing to show the woman inside their identification.

The woman, Elizabeth Norton, 21, asked the agents to slip their identification cards under the door but they said, "The last time they did that agents got shot," according to Miss Norton's attorney, Robert Salzer.

According to Salzer, as Miss Norton tried to make a telephone call for help, the agents began to break through the door. The young woman was "crying hysterically," Salzer said, when the agents entered the apartment with their weapons drawn

The FBI said its agents were looking for Miss Norton's roommate, Bernadine Davis, 24, who it said resembles Miss Hearst. Miss Davis, who could not be reached for comment, was not in the apartment when the incident occurred.

Michael Morrow, a spokesman at FBI headquarters in Alexandria, said Alexandria police received a phone call at about 8 p.m. Saturday from a tipster who "indicated that Patricia Hearst was either residing or staying at the Alexandria apartment." At 10:30 p.m., after agents were called in to assist in the operation, Alexandria police and FBI agents converged on the garden apartment complex in the Arlandria area.

See FBI, A17, Col. 1

Patty Hearst Hunt In Virginia Fails

FBI, From A1

Morrow said the agents knocked on the door and identified themselves as the FBI.

"A voice (Miss Norton's) was that of a young, white female. She said she would not open the door, She did not take issue with our being the FBI," he said.

"Movement was heard," by the agents, Morrow said, apparently when Miss Norton went to the telephone.

Immediately, the agents began to force the door open, Morrow said. "This was a situation where agents were refused admission flatly with no further explanation," he said.

Morrow said the agents did not obtain a search warrant before they entered the apartment. He said they did not need one because of the numerous warrants outstanding against Miss Hearst, who is the subject of a nationwide search.

He said the agents displayed their guns because "this fugitive (Miss Hearst) has displayed graphically and dramatically a potential for violence."

Finally, Miss Norton opened her apartment door and at least six to eight agents entered, according to her attorney, Salzer. The FBI spokesman said only four men entered the apartment. Salzer said Miss Norton told him that at least six agents were armed with riot guns, which he described as looking like sawed-off shotguns, and one displayed a pistol.

According to Miss Norton's neighbor, Sue Gural, when they went in the agents said, "Why didn't you open the door?" and Miss Norton replied, "My God! I'm a woman alone. I'm not going to open the door to anybody."

"It's just not the kind of neighborhood where you would want to open your door to anybody" Mrs. Gural said.